

Application No. 09/827,432

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-21 are rejected as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. The examiner states that claims 14-21 "would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims." Applicant has accordingly rewritten claims 14-21 in independent form and incorporated all of the limitations of the respective base claims and intervening claims. Specifically, Applicant has rewritten claim 14 in independent form and to include the limitations of independent claim 10, from which it previously depended. Claim 18 has also been rewritten in independent form and to include the limitations of independent claim 1, from which it previously depended. Claim 19 has also been rewritten in independent form and to include the limitations of independent claim 5, from which it previously depended. Claim 20 has also been rewritten in independent form and to include the limitations of independent claim 10, from which it previously depended. In view of these amendments, which the examiner indicated would place the claims in condition for allowance, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 14-21 are now allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that the objection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

Claims 1-8 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102, as being anticipated by Allex et al. (1997). Independent claims 1, 5 and 10 have been canceled, thereby obviating the rejection with respect to these claims. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11-13, which also stand rejected under §102, have been amended to change the dependency from canceled claims 1, 5 and 10, respectively, to claims 18, 19 and 20, which have been amended to be placed in condition for allowance. Because claims 2-4, 6-8, and 11-13, now depend from allowable claims, these dependent claims are also allowable. In view of the above amendments, Applicant requests that this rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

In summary, claims 14-21 have been "rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims," which the examiner stated would place the claims in condition for allowance. Claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11-13 have been amended to change their dependency to the rewritten allowable claims, thereby overcoming the §102 rejection of

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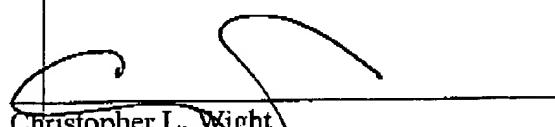
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these claims. Applicant has also cancelled claims 1, 5 and 10, thereby obviating the §102 rejection of these claims.

In view of the above amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that all outstanding claims 2-4, 6-8 and 11-13, and 14-21 are in condition for allowance. Applicant accordingly requests that the outstanding objections and rejections be withdrawn and the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date: March 23, 2005